

# Insight and Outlook . CIA . Change Without Movement

By Joseph Kraft

THE LATEST crop of Presidential appointments expresses a pattern of change without movement. Adjustments have been made, even improvements. But the requirement was for basic reform.

The best case in point, and probably the most important of the appointments, is the naming of a new chairman to the Federal Communications Commission. The appointment has to be measured against the prospect of an imminent revolution in communications. Before long, satellites will probably replace cables as a means of transmission for everything from television to phone calls.

Progress so far has been swift, thanks to a complex of international agreements worked out between the Communications Satellite Corporation (or Comsat), representing this country and the chief transmission authorities abroad. Technically, all of Comsat's acts are subject to approval by the FCC. But under the young, outgoing chairman, R. William Henry, interim approval was given pending the lengthy review that is traditional with all regulatory agencies.

ROSEL HYDE, who succeeds Henry as FCC chairman, is an estimable gentleman with more than two decades of experience as an FCC staff member and Com-



Kraft

missioner. As a Republican, he will wash clean whatever color there is to the charges that the Commission has favored the TV interests in the President's family.

But as an FCC veteran, closely tied to the Commission staff and to the cable owners threatened by satellite communication, Hyde is not particularly receptive to the revolution now in process, still less to the device of interim approval. Instead of pushing ahead, Comsat and its international partners will probably have to slow their progress to the snail's pace of the FCC staff. It may even be that FCC interference will disrupt the delicate network of agreements worked out between Comsat and its international partners.

The appointment of Dr. Samuel Nabrit to the Atomic Energy Commission reflects the same conflict between individual competence and special job requirements. It is no doubt fit that a qualified Negro be named to a post in the national security community.

But the basic fact is that the business of the AEC is now largely managerial, not deliberative. It should be the province of a single administrator, not a commission. Indeed, retention of the commission form is one reason why so much business involving the atom—notably in the disarmament field—has moved so slowly.

IN THE CASE of Henry Owen, newly named to be chairman of the Policy Planning Council at the State Department, there is equally no question of his capacity.

Owen is a civil servant of rare intellectual distinction.

It happens, however, that Owen was the candidate, against considerable opposition, of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. His designation suggests that Rusk is more firmly emplaced than ever. And that in turn indicates that the critical posts of No. 2 and No. 3 to Rusk will be filled, not by fresh faces, but by the sluggish foreign service officers the Secretary has always found so congenial.

As to the Central Intelligence Agency, the resignation of Adm. William R. Rahn is a clear gain. Richard Helms, the able new director, has actually been running the agency for months as deputy director.

But the central fact is that the necessary rethinking of the agency's role in Government is not about to come off now. Helms has been with the CIA and its predecessor agencies since 1943. As much as anybody in town he has an interest—and the ability—to hide the mistakes of the past.

IN FAIRNESS, I suppose, I must add a couple of grace notes. That men of such ability as Owen and Helms exist in the foreign policy bureaucracy is a remarkable fact—a fact that explains the diminishing importance of the outside establishment in running American foreign policy. The retirement of Admiral Rahn, after much criticism in this column and elsewhere, belies the foolish notion that an official becomes cemented in his job as soon as his unsuitability is made known to the world. Finally that Rahn could head the CIA for 13 months without the Republic going under, suggests that the world will not come to an end if, some day, J. Edgar Hoover stops being head of the FBI.

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